

**MINUTES OF THE WARREN TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 18, 2015**

REGULAR MEETING

The Township Committee of the Township of Warren, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, convened in Public Session on Wednesday, February 18, 2015 at 7:34 a.m. in the Susie B. Boyce Meeting Room, 44 Mountain Boulevard, Warren, New Jersey.

Mayor Marion read the following notice:

“In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act of New Jersey, adequate notice of this meeting was provided on January 7, 2015 by sending written notices to the Echoes Sentinel and Courier News, posting on the Bulletin Board in the Municipal Building and filing with the Township Clerk”.

“This meeting is to be taped for broadcast on the Access Channel and everyone is required to comply with the policies and procedures governing access programming for the Access Channel. No mention of political affiliation or political advertising shall take place at this meeting or it will be deleted from any rebroadcast of the meeting.”

On call of the roll, the following Committee members were present:

Mr. Lazo
Mr. Sordillo
Mrs. Garafola
Mayor Marion

Absent: Mr. DiNardo

Also Present: Mark M. Krane, Township Administrator
Patricia A. DiRocco, Township Clerk
Jeffrey Lehrer, Township Attorney

Mr. Sordillo introduced and read resolution No. 2015-48, seconded by Mrs. Garafola and carried by unanimous voice vote.

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, P.L.1975 Chapter 231 permits the exclusion of the public from meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist; and

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WHEREAS, the Governing Body wishes to discuss:

Personnel: Leave of Absence - Gerald Vitale
Potential Land Acquisition -Open Space Plan
Personnel - Police grade promotions
Potential Litigation: 48 Hillcrest Boulevard

WHEREAS, when and if the matters discussed become public record, this will be made known to the public at that time;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Warren, that the public is excluded from this Meeting;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that formal action may be taken upon reconvening to Public Session.

The meeting convened in Executive Session at 7:35 a.m.

The meeting reconvened to Public Session at 7:51 a.m.

Mayor Marion led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Sordillo introduced Ordinance No. 15-01 by title for second reading/adoption and read the following:

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A MUNICIPAL PURPOSES EASEMENT ACROSS A PORTION OF LOT 3.02, BLOCK 89 BY AND BETWEEN THE WARREN TOWNSHIP RESCUE SQUAD AND THE TOWNSHIP OF WARREN

Mayor Marion opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 15-01. No one wished to speak and the hearing was closed.

On motion of Mr. Sordillo, second of Mrs. Garafola, Ordinance No. 15-01 was adopted. The roll call vote was unanimous.

On motion of Mrs. Garafola, second of Mr. Sordillo, the Regular and Executive session meeting minutes of January 20, 2015 were approved. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Mayor Marion opened the Comments on Agenda Items portion of the meeting. No one wished to speak and this portion was closed.

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Mrs. Garafola introduced and read Resolution No. 2015-49 for the payment of bills, seconded by Mr. Sordillo. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Resolution No. 2015-49 is appended to the official minutes.

Mrs. Garafola introduced Ordinance No. 15-02 by title for first reading and read the following:

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE AMOUNT OF \$120,000 AS AN APPROPRIATION FROM THE CAPITAL FUND BALANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PARKING LOT ON BLOCK 89, LOT 2.01 ALONG ELKS TRAIL

On motion of Mrs. Garafola, second of Mr. Sordillo, Ordinance No. 15-02 was passed on first reading. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Mr. Lazo introduced Ordinance No. 15-03 by title for first reading and read the following:

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION BY THE MAYOR AND TOWNSHIP CLERK OF A MUTUAL POLICE AID AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN VARIOUS SOMERSET COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES, THE SOMERSET COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE AND THE SOMERSET COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

On motion of Mr. Lazo, second of Mr. Sordillo, Ordinance No. 15-03 was passed on first reading. The roll call vote was unanimous.

On motion of Mr. Sordillo, second of Mr. Lazo, the following Consent Agenda Resolutions were approved, carried by unanimous roll call vote:

- 2015-50 RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE BOND RCM
 DEVEOPMENT BLOCK 70 LOT 32.02

- 2015-51 ENDORSING FILING OF RECYCLING TONNAGE
 GRANT APPLICATION
 FOR THE YEAR 2014

- 2015-52 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO THE WARREN
 TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT –
 NICHOLAS SMITH

- 2015-53 AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF WATCHUNG HILLS MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE GRANT FUNDING THROUGH MORRIS COUNTY FOR FISCAL YEAR PERIOD JULY 1, 2015 – JUNE 30, 2016
- 2015-54 AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF WATCHUNG HILLS MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE GRANT FUNDING THROUGH SOMERSET COUNTY FOR FISCAL YEAR PERIOD JULY 1, 2015 – JUNE 30, 2016
- 2015-55 AWARD OF CONTRACT – ROCK SALT THROUGH MCCPC COOPERATIVE PURCHASING AGREEMENT
- 2015-56 OPPOSING PROPOSED RULE ADOPTION BY THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION FOR THE ACCELERATION OF BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT
- 2015-57 AUTHORIZING BUDGET TRANSFERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$83,300
- 2015-58 AMENDING 2015 TEMPORARY BUDGET
- 2015-59 REDUCTION OF PERFORMANCE BOND - 154 MT. BETHEL LLC, BLOCK 80 LOT 9

Resolutions No. 2015-50 through No. 2015-59 are appended to the official minutes.

Mr. Krane explained that the County received a federal grant. Funds are being utilized for a comprehensive economic development study and approximately 40 priority growth investment areas have been identified. Six areas, including Warren, have been selected. A meeting was held and attended by Mr. Chadwick, Mr. Krane, Mr. Villani and the County Planning Director to review services that would be provided to the Township. A Consultant would provide possible zoning scenarios for areas. At that meeting it was communicated by Mr. Chadwick and Mr. Villani that some zoning alternatives would not be supported by the Township. Mr. Chadwick will participate and monitor the activities. Traffic studies would be beneficial. Mayor Marion stated that the County should not have a heavy hand and that Warren needs to be in control. Mr. Sordillo commented that he was disappointed when the County allowed the Assisted Living Facility on Mt. Bethel Road to be built. The Township needs to be careful. Traffic,

congestion and environmental issues are very important. The governing body agreed.

The governing body discussed the request to vacate a paper street at property known as Block 164, Lot 2. Mrs. Garafola stated that it should be deed restricted so that the property could never be developed. The governing body agreed to the request. Mr. Chadwick recommended that this area, commonly known as Riverside Gardens, should be considered for consolidation of lots to benefit residents, in terms of expanding lots. The Township owns a good amount of land there. This has been done before.

Mr. Krane noted that the Wagner Farm barn project is moving forward.

The governing body discussed points in the 2015 proposed budget. Mr. Krane gave the dates of introduction and adoption and asked for a Special meeting to introduce the budget. The governing body agreed to have that meeting on April 2nd at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Krane stated that there are issues that the governing body needs to focus on. He explained that the \$593,000 Tax Levy Cap Bank, which is paper money, would have to be utilized or the Township will lose that in 2016. If it is utilized, there would be a 1.2% increase. Surplus can be utilized and that would lower the tax levy. An alternative would be to use a portion of the Cap Bank. Mrs. Garafola recommended reducing the budget. Mayor Marion suggested that Mr. Krane obtain feedback from the Auditors. The Auditors need to paint a five year picture with regards to the Cap Bank. Mr. Krane will send the budget to the Auditors for review. A meeting will be attended by Mayor Marion, Mrs. Garafola, Mr. Krane and the Auditor to discuss the issues. Mrs. Garafola asked the governing body to review the budget in detail. She suggested helping the Rescue Squad with the purchase of a vehicle. Mayor Marion asked about surplus and how it is invested. A meeting will be set up with Mr. Boswell, CFO to discuss this.

Mayor Marion opened the Privilege of the Floor portion of the meeting. No one wished to speak and this portion of the meeting was closed.

On motion of Mr. Sordillo, second of Mr. Lazo, and unanimous voice vote, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. DiRocco, RMC
Township Clerk